

**URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY 2015 GRANT AGREEMENT #22726  
VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY**

**NEWS RELEASE**

The 2016 Altec Model LR7-60 bucket truck was purchased through Supplemental Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program funded by the U.S. Forest Service. The award of \$20,000 from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services was welcome news to the Village of Palmetto Bay. This equipment provides a more efficient and cost effective means to manage structural deficiencies to existing trees while maintaining the proper growth habit of newly planted trees. Additionally, this specialized piece of equipment has increased the capacity of the Village's shade tree maintenance responsibilities; provides for emergency response capabilities for storm-related tree emergencies, and permit aerial access for routine tree trimming and removal.

As a Tree City USA and Growth City community, it is important for the Village to seek supplementary resources for the enhancement and progression of our urban forestry program. Supplemental grant funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service through the Florida Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Plan Grant Program was used as matching funds to successfully complete the Village's 2014 Tree Inventory Project which resulted in 25,565 trees being inventoried. This inventory serves as the basis for prioritization, scheduling and budgeting for the management and maintenance of the Village's community forest, to assure tree health and survival of tree canopy in Village owned rights-of-way, public facilities and parks.

The Village will continue to seek supplementary resources to fund projects that are in excess of the funds budgeted annually for the enhancement and progression of our urban forestry program. The equipment purchased is vital for maintenance of our urban forestry and provides a more efficient and cost effective means to manage structural deficiencies to existing trees while maintaining the proper growth habit on newly planted trees. The Village's Tree Board, Village Council, and residents are extremely supportive of this project which improves the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood while providing streets that have well maintained canopy that provides a seamless system of safe, comfortable travel to schools, parks, and other public gatherings places within the Village.